

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

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INQUIRY ON ETHYL ALCOHOL

REF: STATE 223858

1. INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND FOREIGN TRADE OF ETHYL ALCOHOL AS WELL AS USE OF SYNTHETIC PRODUCTION IS NOT MADE GENERALLY AVAILABLE BY GOB. SOME STATISTICS DO EXIST ON ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, HOWEVER, AND IN 1972 (LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE) BULGARIA EXPORTED \$165 MILLION WORTH WINES, BRANDIES AND SPIRITS. BULGARIA IS SAID TO BE ONE OF LARGEST EXPORTERS OF BOTTLED WINES IN WORLD, AND IN 1972 EXPORTED 6 MILLION LITERS OF WINE DISTILLATES, 127 MILLION LITERS TABLE WINES AND 80 MILLION LITERS LIQUORS. WITHIN COUNTRY THAT YEAR BULGARIANS CONSUMED 50 MILLION LITERS WINE, 18 MILLION LITERS BRANDY, AND 330 MILLIONWITERS OF BEER. BULGARIA IS NET EXPORTER OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS LARGE AMOUNTS OF WHICH GO TO CEMA COUNTRIES, BUT IT DOES IMPORT UNKNOWN QUANTITIES BEER.

2. GENERAL IMPRESSION WHICH IS NOT BACKED BY STATISTICS INDICATES BEVERAGE USE IS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN INDUSTRIAL USE. FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION DEALING WITH EXPORT AND IMPORT OF ETHYL ALCOHOL IS VINIMPEX, ALTHOUGH RAZNOIZNOS DEALS IN SOME QUANTITIES AS CONSUMER GOODS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS UNION CARBIDE APPROACH FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTLY IF IT WISHES PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER.

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